Grade	Ash per-centage	Ash percent range differ-ence	Pithead prices ROM BCCL	Price Diffe rential between two con secutive grades	Pithead prices ROM ECL/ CCL SECL	Price diffe rential between two con secutive grades	Pithead prices ROM WCL	Price diffe rential between two con secutive grades
			(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Washery	21 to 24	3	880		848		848	
Grade II				230		221		83
Washery	24 to 28	4	650		627		765	
Grade II				45		43		137
Washery	28 to 35	7	605		584		628	
Grade II								

(c) The pricing of coking coals which include the Washery Grade coal has been deregulated by the Central Government with effect from 22.3.96. Subsequent to such deregulation, CIL is competent to fix the prices of all grades of coking coal keeping in view the production costs for each grade.

Demand and supply of coal in Punjab

1255. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of coal in the State of Punjab;

(b) the specific reasons for short supply of coal to the Punjab; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The requirement! of coal for various consumers are assessed industry/sector-wise for the whole country and are not aliened State-wise. Coal companies are supplying coal based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Coal supply to power and cement industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) to these sectors.

Linkages *vis-a-vis* despatches of coal to power stations of Punjab during the year 1996-97 are as under:

(In '000 tonnes)

Linkages 1996-97	Despatches 1996-97 (Prov.)	Despatches 1995-96
7290	7025	6365

As per records of Ministry of Coal, there appears to be no cement plants in the State of Punjab. The shortfall is because of unloading problems at the power stations.

(c) Coal companies are endeavouring *i* to meet the requirements of all j consumers in the country including that of consumers in Punjab by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Schemes under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/ sponsorships.

Major coal washeries in Mahanadi Coalfields and SECL

1256. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has succeeded ultimately in awarding work of major coal washeries in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Limited on a build own operate (BOO) basis; and

(b) if not, the reasons of the delay and action taken for fixing the responsibility for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) have issued Letter of Intent to set up washeries in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) under 'Build-Own-Operate(BOO)' scheme at the following locations:—

Location & Capacity:

1. Kalinga (Mahanandi Coalfields Limited)—8.00 mty.

2. Ananta-Bharatpur (Mahanadi Coalfields Limited)—3.2 mty.

3. Dipka (South Eastern Coalfields Limited) —6.00 mty.

Conclusion of the agreements for these washeries is at a final stage. There have been delays in finalising the agreement for supply of washed coal because of various factors including the reluctance of the purchasing power houses to accept the washable coal as has been negotiated with the washery operator.

For concluding the contract for setting up of the washeries it is absolutely essential to have a back agreement with the purchaser of washed coal.

As of now, award of contract for washery is held up because of delay in concluding supply agreement with the concerned consumers who have been raising a number of issues from time to time necessitating prolonged discussion at various, levels.

लोनी, गजियाबाद जिले में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रह रहे लोग

1257. **प्रो. राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा** : क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रत्येक राज्य में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों को कम मूल्य पर खाद्य सामग्री उपलब्ध कराने संबंधी योजना शुरू कर दी गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश में गाजियाबाद जिले के अंतर्गत लोनी क्षेत्र में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या कितनी है; और

(ग) क्या सर्वेक्षण करवाकर वास्तविक लोगों को इसका लाभ दिया जा रहा हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले के राज्य मंत्री (**श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह**) : (क) जी, हां। लक्षित सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे के परिवारों को विशेष रूप से राजसहायता प्राप्त मूल्यों पर प्रति परिवार प्रति मास 10 किलोग्राम खाद्यान्न मुहैया करने की परिकल्पना की गई हैं। यह प्रणाली पंजाब, दिल्ली और गोवा राज्यों और लक्षद्वीप संघ राज्य क्षेत्र को छोड़कर समस्त देश में कार्यान्वित कर दी गई हैं।

(ख) खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्रालय में गरीबी के रेखा से नीचे की जनता के क्षेत्रवार और जिलावार आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

(ग) सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली के कार्यान्वयन के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारें संयुक्त रूप से जिम्मेदार हैं। यद्यपि केन्द्रीय सरकार खाद्यान्नों को वसूल